**Being Able to Carry a Gun- Is it Really a Good Idea?**

Shauna Vorst

12-04-10

P.1

In some states, people are allowed to carry a gun with them if they have a license, but there *are* people who carry a gun without a license. There are people who believe that people *should* be allowed to carry a gun, and there are people who believe that they shouldn’t. I am one of those people. Carrying a gun isn’t an effective way for self- defense. Responsible adults could still be a threat to the public. People who are carrying a gun probably don’t even have proper gun training. How would you feel if a loved one was killed, because someone else was trying to protect themselves?

First of all, why should someone need a gun to defend themselves? Is it really the only way? No. A November of 2009 peer- reviewed study found that someone carrying a gun for defense was 4.5 times more likely to be shot in an assault than a person without a gun. The U.S Constitution doesn’t even grant this right. The right to bear arms provides for citizens to be able to carry a gun for universal military and a militia, not for personal carry. Carrying a gun increases the chances of a confrontation becoming deadly.

A responsible adult carrying a gun could become a danger or a threat to others. People would always be nervous of their surroundings, wondering who has a gun and who doesn’t. People would never believe they were safe anywhere because someone could be carrying a gun. Criminals would be more likely to arm themselves for the purpose of not knowing who would be able to fight against them with a gun. A victim grabbing a gun would be telling the criminal to use more force, sort of like a “try me” thing. And how would you feel if you were a policeman and everyone was carrying a gun? How would you be able to tell the difference between a criminal and an innocent bystander? Or if you witnessed an attack, you would be able to tell who was responsible for the shooting.

Wouldn’t it also make sense to give training to a person who would soon hold a gun in their hands? Adults who carry a gun often don’t have any training. Some states don’t require training before receiving a gun. It would make more sense to let the protection of others be left to trained policemen who are less likely to shoot someone who is completely innocent. Police often get calls from customers at stores saying that they feel unsafe because another customer is said to be carrying a gun.

How would you feel if a loved one was killed because another was trying to protect themselves? I wouldn’t understand why people would want to be allowed to carry a gun when they would be putting other people’s lives at risk. A responsible adult whom you know well could be a serious threat to others. Carrying a gun isn’t an effective way of self- defense when most people carrying one don’t even have any training. The protection of others should be left to those trained to do it, don’t risk the lives of others.